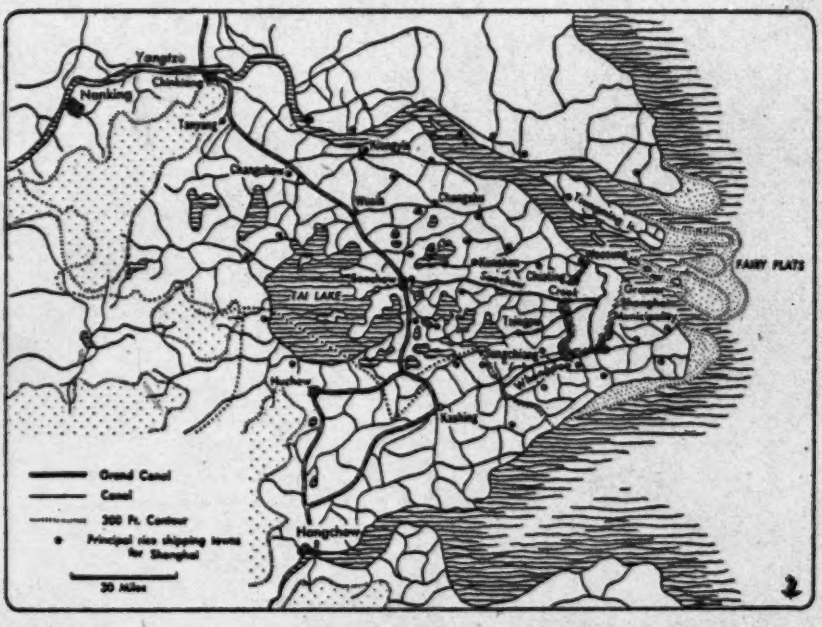
2: Murphy G-4 (no date) 1953 AF15 East China AF15

village or town entirely by water, and in most cases in no other way. According to existing estimates,[3] and on the basis of the incomplete cartographic data, the delta area must contain at least half a million miles of canalized or artificial waterways. The railway between Shanghai and Nanking includes in its 193 miles 164 bridges over navigable rivers or canals.



Map 5. Waterways of the Yangtze Delta. All waterways shown are navigable. Provincial boundaries are indicated by a dotted line.

The use of water routes is reflected in the sparseness of roads compared with other level areas of China and in the fact that such roads as exist run in most cases at right angles to major waterways. In addition, carts and barrows are scarce in the Yangtze delta, in marked contrast with other areas of China, or with most pre-industrial regions. Traditional Chinese bridges in the delta area are nearly all of the single span hump-backed type, reflecting the virtual absence of wheeled traffic as well as the need to provide adequate clearance over waterways for the passage of masted vessels.